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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present invention relates to a forage bale dryer ~~and method of operation~~, and particularly suited, but not exclusively, for the drying of large forage bales which heretofore have generally been dried naturally in their environment, without precise control of the moisture content, and have generally been unsuitable for proper commercialization thereof.

Please cancel paragraph [0008] on page 2:

[0008] ~~Another feature of the present invention is to provide a method of drying forage bales in large quantities and in a quick and efficient manner.~~

Please replace paragraph [0009] on pages 2 and 3 with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] According to the above features, for a broad aspect, the present invention provides a forage bale dryer which comprises a frame having a bale support platform with orifices to permit the passage of air. A lower plenum chamber is provided under the platform. An upper plenum chamber is supported by the frame and spaced at a predetermined distance above the platform. An access opening is defined between the platform and the upper plenum chamber. A surrounding wall ~~means~~ is provided to substantially seal the opening after forage bales to be dried are disposed in a stack form on the platform, and surrounds a circumferential surface of the stack in close contact to confine a drying air flow between the plenum chambers substantially through the stack. An air convection conduit is in communication with each of the plenum chambers. Each air convection conduit has a first branch conduit in communication with a heat generating device at an air intake inlet, and a second branch conduit in communication with an air suction device adjacent an air outlet. A valve ~~means~~ element is provided in each of the

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branch circuits. A control means is also provided to close or open the valve ~~means~~ elements, whereby to direct a drying airflow and create a negative pressure through the forage bales disposed on the platform from above or below the bales, through the upper and lower plenum chambers.

Please cancel paragraph [0010] on page 3:

[0010] ~~According to a further broad aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of drying forage bales comprising the steps of providing a chamber having a bale support platform with orifices to permit the passage of air therethrough. A lower plenum chamber is provided under the support platform, and an upper plenum chamber is spaced above the bale support platform to define an accessible stacking area above the platform. An air circulating passage is connected to each of the plenum chambers. A predetermined number of bales to be dried are placed on the bale support platform in close contact with one another, to form a stack of bales. The stacking area between the lower plenum chamber is sealed with a surrounding wall means, to surround a circumferential side surface of the stack of bales to confine a drying air flow between said plenum chambers and substantially through the stack of bales. A drying air flow is applied in the air circulating passage to create a negative pressure to produce the drying air flow through the stack, and to draw the wall means against a circumferential side surface of the stack.~~

Please replace paragraph [0016] on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Figure 5 is a front view of the interface control module; and

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Please replace paragraph [0022] on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Valve ~~means elements~~ in the form of valve plates 32' and 32" are associated with each of the first and second branch conduits of airflow conduit 21, while valve plates 33' and 33" are associated with first and second branch conduits of airflow conduit 23.

Please replace paragraph [0028] on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] As shown in figure 5, ~~an interface panel~~ a control monitor 51 is accessible to an operator, whereby to start and stop the system, to invert the flow of drying air and to monitor the conditions of the system. In order to do so, temperature and humidity sensing devices are connected to the air flow conduits 21 and 23 and to the controller device. The monitoring is performed by an algorithm in the computer's memory, which controls the parameters of the system. Sensing devices are also connected to the motor of the air blower 31, whereby to monitor the current drawn by the motor to give an indication of the power consumption and air flow rates. The heat generating device 30 also has an on/off switch and a power regulator which allows to vary heating power between 0 and 100% of maximum.

Please replace paragraph [0029] on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The ~~interface-control monitor~~ 51 is a user friendly control panel provided with control switches 56 and screen displays 57, which ~~displays indicate~~ the characteristics of the monitored thermostats which can be selected by switches 58. Various other display devices 59 are provided to monitor the operation of the system's parameters. The system also controls relays not shown to start and stop the air suction device 31 and the heat generating device 30. The system can be entirely automatic but the interface panel 51 provides manual control, particularly if there are problems with the computer. It operates in parallel with the computer. To comply with safety standards, the system is also purged

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automatically, whereby air and other gases are evacuated from the plenums before the heat generating device is turned on.